**The Money Tree**

*Tales of Coyote, an animal who liked to play tricks on others, are told by many American Indians.*

Coyote only had a couple of coins and was trying to think of a way to get more money. After staring up at a nearby tree, he came up with a sneaky trick. He arranged coins on the branches of a tree so that they seemed to have grown there.

Soon, two gold miners came by on horses and saw Coyote sitting underneath the tree. When the gold miners rode up, they asked him what he was doing.

“I’m watching this tree,” Coyote explained. “It is a very valuable tree.”

“Why is it valuable?” the men asked. “What is in the tree?”

“Money grows on that tree,” Coyote said, moving his head wisely.

“A money tree!” one of the gold miners exclaimed.

“Yes,” said Coyote. “Every day at noon, I shake the tree, and ripe coins fall from it.” The gold miners started to laugh at him, so Coyote shook the tree to show them. The coins he had put on the tree fell down to the ground and landed right next to the root.

The men looked at each other in amazement. Now the men were very interested. “Sell us that tree,” they demanded.

“No,” Coyote replied and pretended to be angry. “This is the only tree in the world that grows money.”



But now the gold miners really wanted Coyote’s money tree. One miner said, “We’ll trade you a bag of gold, our horses, and all of our supplies for that tree.”

For a while, Coyote pretended that he wasn’t interested, but then Coyote pretended to be persuaded. He accepted the gold, horses, and supplies. Before he left, he warned the miners to be patient and wait until noon the next day to shake the tree. Coyote then jumped on one of the horses with his gold and rode away towards the mountains.

The miners waited all afternoon, all night, and all morning. When the sun was at its highest point in the sky, they knew it was noon, and they shook the tree. They could not wait to collect the coins. No coins fell. The miners pounded the trunk. One miner climbed up the tree to look. Not a single coin bloomed on the tree. At first, the miners thought they had mistaken the time. They waited an extra day to see if any coins ripened. In the mountains, Coyote was laughing and counting his gold!

1. Read this sentence from the passage.

**When the sun was at is highest point in the sky, they knew it was noon, and they shook the tree.**

Which sentence uses the word *point* as used in the sentence above?

1. The map of race shows the point where the runners will start.
2. I accidently poked myself in the leg with the point of my pencil.
3. The new neighbor asked me to point out the direction of the nearest grocery store.
4. My brother was talking so much, I wasn’t sure what point he was trying to make.
5. Read this sentence from the passage.

**The coins he had put on the tree fell down to the ground and landed right next to the root.**

Which sentence uses the word *root* as used in the sentence above?

1. At the football game, we will root for our home team.
2. I had to root through my closet to find my favorite jacket.
3. When I was pulling weeds, I accidently pulled up a flower root.
4. My grandmother stored her canned vegetables in her root cellar.
5. Read these sentences from the passage.

**“Yes,” said Coyote. “Every day at noon, I shake the tree, and ripe coins fall from it.” He shook the tree to show them.**

Which sentence uses the word *show* as used in the sentence above?

1. The artist proudly displayed her work in an art show.
2. My teacher asked me to show the new student around school.
3. The television show did not have enough viewers so it was cancelled.
4. We are having a field trip tomorrow to see a show about a talking dog.
5. Read these sentences from the passage.

**They could not wait to collect the coins.**

Which sentence uses the word *collect* as used in the sentence above?

1. Every time I visit the beach, I enjoy taking long walks to collect unusual shells.
2. Every afternoon, I have to go and collect my sister from the kindergarten waiting area.
3. When my cell phone broke and I didn’t have any money, I had to make a collect call home.
4. After watching the very sad movie, I had to take a few minutes before leaving to collect myself.
5. Read this sentence from the passage.

**Tales of Coyote, an animal who liked to play tricks on others, are told by many American Indians.**

Which sentence uses the word *play* as used in the sentence above?

1. My parents went to a play last Saturday night.
2. I had to clean my room before I could go outside to play ball.
3. Our coach described a new play he wanted to try during the game.
4. I was so excited when I caught the baseball to make the outfield play.
5. Which pair of words from the passage has almost the SAME meaning?
6. staring, watching
7. waited, arranged
8. moving, counting
9. pretended, persuaded
10. What happens BEFORE Coyote rides towards the mountains but AFTER the miners offer Coyote gold?
11. The miners shake and pound on the tree.
12. The miners ask Coyote to sell them the tree.
13. Coyote tells the miners to wait until the next day to shake the tree.
14. Coyote places coins in the tree to make it seem they have grown there.
15. The author MOST LIKELY wrote “The Money Tree” to
16. list ways to protect rare trees.
17. suggest ways to earn more money.
18. explain how to grow a money tree.
19. teach a lesson about being easily tricked.
20. Which sentence from the passage BEST describes the third illustration?
21. The miners waited all afternoon, all night, and all morning.
22. The gold miners started to laugh at him, so Coyote shook the tree to show them.
23. He arranged coins on the branches of a tree so that they seemed to have grown there.
24. When the sun was at its highest point in the sky, they knew it was noon, and they shook the tree.
25. What is Coyote’s MAIN problem?
26. He needs more money.
27. The money is stuck in the tree.
28. The tree needs to be protected from thieves.
29. He needs a horse to travel to the mountains.

Answer Key:

1. Correct Answer is A, DOK 2
2. Correct Answer is C, DOK 2
3. Correct Answer is B, DOK 2
4. Correct Answer is A, DOK 2
5. Correct Answer is B, DOK 2
6. Correct Answer is A, DOK 2
7. Correct Answer is C, DOK 2
8. Correct Answer is D, DOK 3
9. Correct Answer is D, DOK 2
10. Correct Answer is A, DOK 2